

Foot-dragging claimed on right to sabbaticals

by David Walker

Polytechnics are much more generous than universities in allowing sabbaticals and staff leave, though they make staff wait longer before they can enjoy the privilege, the annual conference of the Society for Research into Higher Education was told last week.

Despite differences between universities and polytechnics, neither sector had moved very far in recent years towards giving staff the contractual right to sabbaticals and time off for training courses.

A survey by Dr Alan Harding of Bradford University and Miss Hattie Gurney of the Polytechnic of North London showed that only four universities awarded leave for "staff development" as of right, and most only awarded such leave after three years.

This research, shortly to be published by the SRHE, was intended to clarify what academic institutions meant by staff development, the conference theme.

Definitions ranged from "training lecturers" to "teach-through-to-time-off for academic research". Despite external pressure on universities and polytechnics there seemed to have been little progress in recent months towards expanding their commitment to training.

An agreement three years ago between the Universities Authority Panel and the Association of University Teachers on procedures connected with lecturers' probation put some emphasis on better

preparation for the work of teaching.

On the polytechnic side, moves are afoot within the Advisory Committee on the Supply and Training of Teachers to make the training of teachers without at least three years' experience compulsory by the 1980s.

The present pattern of staff development, as revealed to the conference by Dr Stuart Trickey of Sheffield Polytechnic, is very mixed. About a dozen polytechnics—compared with a couple three years ago—require new teachers to attend induction courses. But not only are such courses not mandatory in most polytechnics, in some there is a marked lack of staff interest in training.

Mr J. W. L. Warren reported from Leeds Polytechnic that, for example, in that one series of discussions on staff development as many as two-thirds had not participated. The rest stayed away because they "did not perceive sufficient need for the discussions".

The main contributors to the conference based their papers on the work of the SRHE methods units and staff development groups that have grown up in a number of institutions. One of these is the university teaching methods unit at the London University Institute of Education on whose behalf Mr David Warren Piper outlined a blueprint for the future of staff development.

His definition, widely accepted by participants, was "a systematic attempt to harmonise individuals'

interests and wishes, and their carefully assessed requirements for furthering their careers with the forthcoming requirements of the organization within which they are expected to work."

This meant a lecturer should have adequate grounding in the skills needed to teach, research, examine and administer his institution. A programme to inculcate these should be spread over the three to four years of a lecturer's probationary period. Mr Warren Piper warned that implementing such a policy would not only require much further thought but much money, too.

He made a novel emphasis on training for administration: "Perhaps initial training should concentrate on helping probationers find their way about the administrative structure, how to get from it what they need, and how to avoid being unnecessarily the victim of it."

His scheme involved adding to the senior academic's responsibilities to help probationers with a wider brief for training within a university department. Such a departmental adviser, who would preferably not be a head of department, would, among other things, ensure the probationer got a share of different roles, give direct guidance, monitor his progress and produce in conjunction with the head of department a general statement of training needs among academics in a given area.

Such ideas are being welcomed in the polytechnics, too. Sunderland Polytechnic, the conference was informed, has begun to write

individual "profiles" containing a lecturer's training needs.

The conference devoted part of its time to the detailed methods of training lecturers. Professor P. J. Black of Chelsea College, London, described how a teacher's performance in a tutorial was analysed in great detail to make him more aware of how his student attitudes affected the process of learning.

Despite anxiety in spring about finance the society has recovered and continues to publish books and papers, according to its annual report.

But the chairman, Professor Lewis Eliot, of Surrey University, warned that its financial health had to improve further. The removal of the headquarters from London to Guildford had been its salvation and its progress lay in the expansion of regional seminars and meetings.

The report, made last week to the annual meeting, listed the various monographs published during the year and the activities of its working parties on teaching methods in universities and colleges, on interdisciplinary and on the colleges of education.

● The SRHE intends to publish a book next year to commemorate the work of the late Dr Nicholas Mallett, physician in charge of the London University Central Health Service. Some articles will be by Dr Mallett himself, others will be by current knowledge in the field of student health and counselling.

Details from SRHE at the University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XH.

Engineering vacancies outnumber graduates

by Clive Cookson

science correspondent

The Science Research Council is to pay for a new engineering building at Sussex University—providing further evidence that the dual support system for funding university research is beginning to crack under current financial strains.

A team of four from the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, led by Professor Fred Bayley, has won a £189,000 grant for research in thermofluid mechanics. The SRC has allocated £25,000 of this for a building to house test cells, offices and a new computer.

The grant appears to violate the dual support principle, described in last year's SRC annual report as the obligation of universities to supply with the help of the University Grants Committee, "the time of the university staff concerned, together with the necessary accommodation, supplies and services which make up a well-funded laboratory."

SRC grants are intended to provide "any extra staff and special facilities which are judged necessary for particular investigations".

But an SRC spokesman said the Sussex building was regarded as a special facility rather than a true laboratory, and therefore not a breach of dual support.

Professor Bayley says the new lab, due to become operational in Spring 1978, will enable his group

SRC move opens crack in dual support system

to continue in more suitable conditions the work they are already doing in the existing applied sciences building. This concerns the problems of heat transfer in rotating machinery, particularly gas turbines and aero-engines.

Most of the work will be sponsored research for industry. Rolls-Royce, for example, have supported Professor Bayley's activities since he came to Sussex in 1966, and he is currently negotiating further funding from them and from several other firms. He has no doubt that his group's services will be in sufficient demand to keep their five test rigs fully occupied.

Professor Bayley and his colleagues are understandably proud to have obtained a grant that they regard as unprecedented.

"It wasn't just a matter of convincing our friends from academia," said Professor Bayley. "The SRC sent down a panel of six to look at our proposals, and only two were academics. The other four were from industry and they gave us a real commercial grilling."

The group had originally asked for nearly £500,000 to build a much bigger laboratory, but, under the economic circumstances, they were delighted with what they got. There would have been no chance at UGC support for such a large sum, says Bayley, and the UGC would just have pointed to the apparently under-utilised facilities at some of the new technological universities.

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Poly director saddened by binary conflict

by Frances Gibb

science correspondent

The idea that polytechnics should stick to teaching and let universities get on with research has been attacked by the Director of Trent Polytechnic, Mr Ronald Hedley.

Introducing a new research section in Trent's staff bulletin, Hedley writes that one of the saddest results of the "binary line" policy in higher education has been the idea of conflict between universities and polytechnics—above all "the facile conflict of the paired terms 'teaching' and 'research' and 'polytechnic/teaching'".

Mr Hedley blames both the Department of Education and Science and the polytechnics themselves—"the DES through their initial attempts to put polytechnics research in a crippling strait-jacket, the polytechnics through the very zeal with which we have proclaimed the primacy of our teaching function."

"Of course we are a teaching institution, of course that is our purpose, but surely the same should be said of all institutions of higher education? I believe the converse is also true: all higher education institutions should boast an active programme of research and scholarship."

Dr Hill-Ebner, reader in organic chemistry, criticises the new section. He hopes it will help her role as technical secretary of the polytechnic's research committee in promoting research.

Universities in quandary over numbers Sheffield: constant 2,000 intake being considered

by Frances Gibb

science correspondent

A standstill in the student intake at Sheffield University is predicted by Professor G. D. Sims, its vice-chancellor, in his annual report for 1977/78.

Both the short and medium term futures appear difficult, he says, and the senate is examining the size of the intake with the distinct possibility of keeping it constant at about the 2,000 of 1975/76. But this would still mean a considerable increase in total student numbers over the next two years because of the growth in the intake in previous years. The total number of full-time students during 1975/76 was 6,995 compared with 6,647 the year before.

Staff numbers will continue to be reduced as a result of these contingency measures, he says. At the end of the last session, 20 academic staff posts had lapsed, including five chairs, and 10 had been frozen.

But the university's recurrent grant for 1976/77 will enable it to provide extra staff for hard-pressed departments such as law, geography, economic studies and English literature, so that there will be no deterioration in the overall staff/student ratio, he says.

The increase in applications to universities generally has been reflected at Sheffield. There has also been a slow increase in the number of applicants placing Sheffield as their first choice. Applications have risen particularly for the faculties of arts, pure science and law, remained substantial for social science and engineering but declined slightly in architectural studies and medicine.

The university's financial diffi-

culties are to some extent influencing curriculum developments. In the faculty of arts, new schools have been introduced in biblical studies with linguistics, and with music, in Italian and Latin, linguistics and Japanese, and music and Russian. In the faculty of medicine there are plans for a new course in speech science.

Introducing his report to the university court, the vice-chancellor expressed concern about the likely effects of the Government's proposals to increase tuition fees. Over half the postgraduates at Sheffield were now on taught courses, and the number of part-time postgraduates was approaching 300, some 18 per cent of the postgraduate population.

The effects of the fees changes on these groups "would be far-reaching," he said.

Overseas students had always been welcome, but if their numbers had to be restricted for national economic reasons, a quota system was preferable to a fee differential which was an inevitably harsh disincentive for the less well off, privately financed student.

But he emphasized that while the university condemned the way the Government had handled the fees question, it had no flexibility in deciding how to implement them, and the students had to realize this.

The 4 per cent cut in next session's grant would mean a loss of £750,000, and while the difficulties would be great, failure to implement the new fees structure would cost £2.6m and reduce the university to a level at which it would not work.

Kent: may have to stop growth

by Jane Feinmann

science correspondent

Kent University will have to consider whether or not to allow student numbers to grow after October next year, Dr Geoffrey Templeman, the vice-chancellor, has warned.

In his annual report for 1975-76, he said the student numbers had grown from about 2,600 in 1974-75 to just over 3,000 in the past year, and are expected to grow still further this year.

This increase posed the university with a hard choice, he says. It knew it could take more students, particularly undergraduates, without lowering entrance standards. But that would also severely stretch resources, as there could be no increase in the number of staff.

The increased interest had not happened by chance, he says. It represented a genuine increase in the number of people wanting a university education. "I believe that it is because what we try to do for students is now becoming more

widely known and so more young people want to grasp the opportunity for themselves."

The university decided to accept the challenge on public grounds as well as for the university itself. Growth will continue next year, but the situation will have to be reviewed after that, he says.

Although the accounts showed a favourable balance by the end of the year, they did not reveal what this had cost in terms of books and periodicals unbought, posts unfilled (of which were 30), "maintenance left undone and in a further serious erosion of the real value of the salaries of all academic and related staff," he writes.

He warns that the situation is likely to be worse during the current academic session. But planning must continue, if only for the short term, as the only way through the present difficulties.

News in brief

Wolverhampton link finally agreed

Plans for a new faculty of education at Wolverhampton Polytechnic were agreed last week after two years of negotiations.

Wolverhampton Technical Teachers' College, Wolverhampton Day College and Dudley College of Education will merge to form a faculty with 450 initial teacher training places and about 150 places for technical teachers.

Pure scientists made up 29 per cent of those graduating and 10 per cent of those going immediately into employment in the last year of the CVU vacancies about 8 per cent specified a science degree. The CVU list does not include all places, since some firms advertise independently.

The number of jobs for the non-technical sector is higher than it suggests. The Civil Service and other government departments employ a high percentage of graduates.

UMIST military work

Mr Lyndon Harrison, research officer for the UMIST Students Union, has compiled a report on the Institute's military interests. It reveals that grants from the Defence Ministry and United States military services amounted to £28,000 in 1974-75, compared to UMIST's total income of £3.7m.

While not happy about either the level of military support for research or the Institute's openness in revealing details about it, Mr Harrison's report to the union council says: "The Institute goes further than many universities in freely listing military sponsorship in its publications."

Sir David Martin dies

Sir David Martin, executive secretary of the Royal Society since 1947, died suddenly last week at the age of 62. The society's president, Lord Todd, has asked Dr Ronald Key, the society's executive secretary, to take over for the time being.

Leeds saves £250,000

Leeds University has saved £250,000 by reducing its oil and electricity consumption by 15 per cent over the past three years. Its fuel economy group is now examining ways in which the annual £40,000 water bill can be reduced.

Call to give vocation courses to employment department

by Jane Feinmann

science correspondent

Vocational training should be the Department of Employment's responsibility and not the Department of Education and Science, the chairmen of the Business Education Teachers' Association has said.

Mr Alan Hale, dean of the faculty of business at the North East London Polytechnic, said that the DE had shown through its work with the Training Services Agency and the Industrial Training Boards that government can exert a creative influence to promote initiative. "In contrast, the DES, with its confusing responsibilities, among which the most important seems to be that of safeguarding general education, preparation for vocational preparation, is ineffective and sometimes divisive role in vocational education."

This challenge to DES authority comes at a time when, said Mr Hale, it was crucial to reexamine the interaction between employers and colleges in the provision of vocational education. He said that little progress had been made in a comparison of vocational education in other European countries and the UK.

Mr Hale proposed that vocational courses should be put under general jurisdiction of a body that was committed to vocational education and also that about 30 per cent of staff teaching business studies in polytechnics should be seconded from industry. These changes would be more likely to come about if the DE took over responsibility for vocational education.

The conference also discussed a "sandwich" placement course and the difficulties experienced by many polytechnics in finding places for their business studies undergraduates to work in industry because of the economic recession.

Mr Hale said that the debate over the past few months on how colleges and industry can enter into "closer" cooperation had been fairly sterile. "The great problem is the social

conflict between two major cultures—the industrial and the academic—which stems mainly from a failure on the part of the colleges to acknowledge that industry itself does have a culture."

"The purist academic culture in colleges where the student number is interested in teaching their subject makes it very difficult to create a proper vocational training of students."

He said that the Council for National Academic Awards, the validating body concerned with business studies, everything it could to perpetuate this academic culture. "The CNA has always emphasized that polytechnic courses must compare with university standards, rather than making their own vocational standards."

It has meant that courses have been designed to meet university criteria with a strong bias towards academic curricula. And staff are nervous of innovation because they fear that the CNA will not be sympathetic."

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AUT urges blue asbestos ban

by Jane Feinmann

science correspondent

The Association of University Teachers has written to the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals urging them to call for a ban on the use of blue asbestos in universities.

It has also written to all AUT branches asking them to find out whether blue asbestos has been used in their universities and if so, to urge checks to see if there is any risk from asbestos dust.

Mr John Akker, deputy general secretary, said: "The use of blue asbestos, which is mainly for insulation and to assist with fire prevention, has been banned in the civil authority sector. We are trying to get a similar ban in the university sector."

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Recently blue asbestos was found in a plant room and service ducts at the University of East Anglia, and at University College London, where it cost £100,000 to have it removed and replaced.

A spokesman from the CVCP said it shared the AUT's concern but it had not been possible to find a problem. Blue asbestos was used mainly during 1955-1965 and had not been used in universities recently.

The CVCP had written to university buildings officers, telling them what had happened at East Anglia, and advising that if they had new buildings between 1955-65, blue asbestos might have been used. It has advised them where to obtain specialist advice if this is the case.

CNA maths validation 'has undesirable results'

by Judith Judd

science correspondent

Validation of mathematics courses in colleges of education by the Council for National Academic Awards is having some undesirable results, the Royal Society says.

In a report published last week the society also points out that less than 60 per cent of college education entrants who aim to teach in primary schools have passed O-level mathematics and only about 5 per cent of entrants choose mathematics as their special field of study.

The report, on the training and professional life of teachers of mathematics, says the CNA is right in its demand for high standards in degree mathematics courses.

"However, there is a danger that an apparent raising of too narrowly conceived academic standards in mathematics will not increase a student's future effectiveness as a teacher."

Partially-digested courses on branches of mathematics beyond a student's capacity and interest only make him think that misunderstanding is the norm.

A second problem is caused by the view that high standards can only be achieved in academic courses and not in professional courses. "Hence the status and quality of the professional training for teaching may actually diminish in the search for higher standards."

The report says that a new NUT survey, which analysed responses from 79 newly-qualified teachers without jobs after the start of the school year, estimates that there are about 20,000 teachers looking for jobs. Most are those who specialize in teaching humanities, about 58.2 per cent of the sample.

Of those who replied 246 had managed to find temporary jobs, most doing clerical and secretarial work. Twenty-four per cent were working in shops and 22 per cent in other jobs.

It adds that colleges seeking validation from universities face similar problems but with a small number of local colleges personal contact is essential.

The Council for Legal Education has said that while it recognizes the difficulties facing the Law Society, it cannot defer its own decision until the Law Society has decided that although non-law graduates should have to take a year's full-time course leading to an examination of degree standard, this requirement, as far as solicitors were concerned, would be deferred until 1978-79.

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Student union dream realized

by Jane Feinmann

science correspondent

Work started this week on Loughborough Students' Union's new £3m building, which will be a unique provision for the university.

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Origin of statistics

by Jane Feinmann

science correspondent

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Brendan Foster, Olympic 5,000m bronze medalist, in cap and gown after receiving his honorary degree at Master of Education at a ceremony at Newcastle University last week.

'Managers need full training'

by Jane Feinmann

science correspondent

It is high time we accepted that preparation for management requires a full education, says a report by the National Association of Management Teachers.

The NUT survey, which analysed responses from 79 newly-qualified teachers without jobs after the start of the school year, estimates that there are about 20,000 teachers looking for jobs. Most are those who specialize in teaching humanities, about 58.2 per cent of the sample.

Of those who replied 246 had managed to find temporary jobs, most doing clerical and secretarial work. Twenty-four per cent were working in shops and 22 per cent in other jobs.

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Influential Philosophical essays

Contemporary Political Philosophers
edited by A. de Crespigny and K. Minogue
Methuen, £5.50 and £2.75
ISBN 0 416 83370 5 and 83380 2

It might, perhaps, be seen as a sad reflection on the British intellectual scene that only one of the 12 contemporary political philosophers discussed here, Michael Oakeshott, is authentically British. Of the remaining 11 no less than six (Marcuse, Hayek, Strauss, Voegelin, Popper and Arendt) were brought up in the intellectual tradition of pre-Hitler Germany or Austria, three are French (Aron, Do Janvion and Rawls) and two (Macpherson and Rawls) are natives of North America. The editors themselves, in characteristically Oakeshottian vein, see political philosophy as an explanation of understanding, akin to art in that individuals are free to choose their part of it. Their 12 contributors are commended for providing not potted digests of each selected philosopher's work, but "a general account of the terrain, and a number of useful points for future exploration".

The longest and in many ways the most interesting essay is by David Kettler on Marcuse, but it serves rather as an aid to the experienced traveller than to the raw inquirer. Kettler is particularly good at explaining the tension between Marcuse's conception of the right of need for revolution inherent in modern bourgeois society, and the attitudes and practices which he commends for its realization. In contrast to Leo Strauss, who confines himself to giving a clear account of Strauss's distinctive kind of political thought, arrived at through the interpretation of the grand masters of the past, the essay on Leo Strauss by John Rawls, who restricts itself to a stage-by-stage outline of *The Theory of Justice* so familiar to

political theorists in departmental seminars, provides a more useful and more interesting account of Strauss's thought. Oakeshott's successor at the School of Economics, Craufurd Goodwin, provides a more useful and more interesting account of Strauss's thought. Oakeshott's successor at the School of Economics, Craufurd Goodwin, provides a more useful and more interesting account of Strauss's thought.

Finally, mention must be made of Michael Macpherson's essay on Macpherson's own method of inquiry to the liberal democracy. Macpherson's account of the three major liberalisms he discerns in Macpherson's analysis by following the argument that when we have an inconsistent position taken... we are entitled to ask whether any assumption author may then have had to account for such a stance. Macpherson's account of the three major liberalisms he discerns in Macpherson's analysis by following the argument that when we have an inconsistent position taken... we are entitled to ask whether any assumption author may then have had to account for such a stance.

L. J. Macpherson

Academics on admin

From Policy to Administration: Essays in Honour of William A. Robinson
edited by J. A. G. Griffith
Allen & Unwin, £7.95
ISBN 0 04 350050 1

Another *Pestschrift*, but one with a claim to special consideration, because it honours the dozen of British academic public administrators who have contributed, variously, abundantly and significantly to the academic study of administration and its practice. The editor, William A. Robinson, is a distinguished public affairs scholar, and his collection of essays is a valuable contribution to the study of administration. The essays are written by leading academics and provide a comprehensive overview of the field.

Scrutinizing Durkheim's use of statistical materials, Pope also finds frequent occasion to question the findings which Durkheim claimed to have established. Pope affirms bluntly, "do not sustain the theory." These weaknesses, however, do not detract from the achievements of the work which remains a model for integrating theory and data, and, Pope adds, with apparently unconscious irony, "Suicide remains a monument".

Anthony Giddens

New society?

Communes, Society and Society
by Philip Abrams and Andrew McCulloch
Cambridge University Press, £7.90
ISBN 0 521 21183 and 296678

Without society the individual does not exist. He becomes an individual through his relationships with others. But relationships have a habit of crystallizing—of becoming objectified or reified so that we find ourselves relating to a mystification—an out-there "thing". Marx saw this process of objectification as a source of alienation by which we are estranged not only from those with whom we interact but also from ourselves, while Durkheim saw the process providing a moral order—a thing which gives us the reassurance of knowing who we are, what to do and where, when and how to do it.

The paradox is that both Marx and Durkheim would appear to be right. We all seem to need the womb-like security of belonging somewhere, of knowing what to expect, of being able to typify and be typified, to live in a relatively stable context with relatively stable expectations of how we may treat others and how we ourselves will be treated. But we want more than that, we want the reassurance of contemporary "individualistic" society to be "ourselves"—to be free from the constraints of how others see us, to be free to interact with whom we please when and as we please. We want to love and be loved directly and we want to work from to give of ourselves; to create as well as to receive. We want to throw off the suffocating chains which make us into the zombies of a robot society. We want to be real people, not by ourselves but with real people; to make our own lives with others, yet not have them thrust upon us by society. We want to explore, and to create; to be truly human.

But then what of the moral order? Can we endure the directness of relationships which are not mediated by some accepted regulatory control? Can men and women not only live but develop in contexts which are not structured in such a way as to produce an inevitable alienation?

Perhaps one of the best practical experiments to test such a possibility.

Eileen Barker

A sense of belonging

Party Identification and Beyond: Representations of Voting and Party Competition
edited by I. Budge, I. Crewe and D. Farrell
Wiley, £10.95
ISBN 0 471 013552

As a reader on three alternative ways of thinking about voters and parties—party identification, dimensional analysis, and rational choice—this volume of papers is excellent. Whether it takes us "beyond party identification" is another matter, and this is important because the editors' introductions show that they took their main title seriously.

Here the problem arises from the book's origins as a set of conference papers. There are several papers in it which define the concept of party identification, subject to fundamental assumptions.

the title *Party Identification and Beyond* is a little misleading, and only treat party identification incidentally. Party identification is defined by the Michigan School as the 1952 presidential election and retested by the Michigan School in the opening paper of this volume is the concept of belonging or attachment which many ordinary voters are supposed to have for a particular party, not necessarily the party which currently gets their vote. Indeed the concept is most interesting precisely when party identification differs most from voting behaviour. As Warren Miller's paper has it, "attending only to the direct impact of contemporary differences on the vote choice is a preoccupation with the unique and the ephemeral". Shining through that quote

is the 1952 Michigan view that candidates and issues are ephemeral, which may well affect the vote at the election yet leave party identification as the essential link between past and future. No one living in Scotland in 1976 could be so convinced that issues are ephemeral, and party identification is the eternal component of voting choice.

Among the modifications and alternatives to party identification put forward by contributors to this volume are the following. First, party identification could be measured differently by changing the Michigan inspired wording. "Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as Conservative, Labour, Liberal or what?" Second we might ask respondents to say how close they felt to each party, and also how antagonistic to each. Third we might locate each individual's basic political position with our reference to party by asking "what party do you most resemble?"

Whether it did the job well or badly, party identification was an attempt to distinguish long-term attitudes to the parties from current voting behaviour. Alternatives that discard party identification, that discard the distinction between short and long term are not precisely beyond party identification, so much as efforts in other directions. The suggested alternatives betray a willingness to discard the long-term element of party identification whether or not they abandon explicitly reference to party.

W. J. Miller

Suicide

Durkheim's Suicide: A Classic Analyzed
by Wilhelmy Pope
University of Chicago Press, £8.85
ISBN 0 226 67538 6

Suicide was a favourite topic of study throughout the nineteenth century. Moralists interpreted rising suicide rates in Western European countries as expressing the decay of the fabric of culture. Some, taking their cue from the Belgian demographer Quetelet, regarded suicide statistics as providing an exact measure of the moral health of a society. These enthusiasts survive in Durkheim's *Suicide* (1897), which was the culmination of the nineteenth-century tradition of research into the aetiology of suicide.

It is odd that the work has come to be regarded by orthodox sociology as a methodological classic. The book makes no innovations of a methodological kind but relies on modes of statistical reasoning well-established by a multitude of earlier authors. Durkheim's use of the official statistics of suicide is actually at some points considerably looser than that of other of the leading writers of the period. Moreover, there are obvious weaknesses at major junctures in the argument. Thus the book opens with an attempt to demonstrate that various kinds of "non-social" factors, such as climate or geographical variations, do not have an influence on the distribution of suicide. Durkheim does manage to show that no single factor of such a type could explain observed differentials in suicide rates. But no one had ever claimed anything so extreme anyway, and what Durkheim does not do is to show that "non-social" factors do not have some bearing, however small, on suicide.

All this being said, *Suicide* does have a definite cumulative power that is lacking in most of its forerunners, even if this hardly warrants the extraordinary degree of influence it has had in the field of suicide studies and in sociology more generally. Over the years there have been numerous critical commentaries on various aspects of the work. Pope's aim is more ambitious: to provide a definitive, comprehensive review of the status of the theoretical reasoning and empirical content of the book (the blurb claims it as "the first systematic assessment" of *Suicide*, but that honour surely belongs to Halbwachs). In surveying the theoretical arguments in the book, Pope reaches the conclusion that there are basic ambiguities and inadequacies in Durkheim's four major types of suicide—egoistic, anomic, altruistic and fatalistic. These can without loss be contributed to two types, at each end of a single dimension of levels of social integration or regulation.

Scrutinizing Durkheim's use of statistical materials, Pope also finds frequent occasion to question the findings which Durkheim claimed to have established. Pope affirms bluntly, "do not sustain the theory." These weaknesses, however, do not detract from the achievements of the work which remains a model for integrating theory and data, and, Pope adds, with apparently unconscious irony, "Suicide remains a monument".

This is a useful little book, but it remains for the most part on the same level as Durkheim's own approach, not really attempting any sort of new substantive critique of the views developed in *Suicide*. One of its failings is that the author does not really test the alternative Durkheimian view that the "suicidal" was first published, and making passing mention of Halbwachs.

Anthony Giddens

The labour movement in France

The History of the French Labour Movement 1830-1914—The Socialism of Skilled Workers
by Bernard H. Moss
University of California Press, £20
ISBN 0 520 02982 8

In *Revolutionary Syndicalism and French Labor* (Rutgers University Press, 1971), Professor Stearns challenged the common view that French trade unions were predominantly revolutionary syndicalist in character during the period 1900-1914. He made the fair point that this view had never been seriously tested, by which he meant in its application to empirical social scientists. Historians had looked at doctrines without checking the extent to which they were held by participants or manifested in their behaviour. Revolutionary syndicalism, it will be remembered, centred round the use of the strike as a revolutionary weapon. No more than other historians could Stearns discover what the unrecorded unionists in the street really thought half a century ago; he believed, however, that he could test the hold of syndicalist ideas on union members by examining their strikes records. His conclusion was that the strikes of the time did not differ in number or intensity (violence as a possible indication of revolutionary ardour) from those in other countries at a similar stage of industrial development and that they could be explained by conjunctural economic factors.

There were flaws in this line of argument, of course. Common factors do not necessarily exclude a special revolutionary motivation in the French case. And if they make it less likely, it still tells us nothing about the state of mind of strikers

whether, in the French case, they saw the strike (that an image of the revolutionary struggle. Stearns admitted that one could not penetrate into the minds of the workers, and concluded, without much justification, that it was hard to equate their activities with any extensive devotion to syndicalist principles. The legitimacy of that inference seemed doubtful, and to that extent his revision of French labour history was built on sand.

Now we have another American, Professor Bernard Moss, who has studied the French labour movement from 1830 to 1914. Stearns thought that a revision of history was necessary because "historians, being intellectuals, have too often looked at the expressed ideas of a movement or organization without checking the extent to which these were held by participants or manifested in their behaviour." Professor Moss has a different view of what historians of the French labour movement have done so far—"few have gone beyond chronicles of unions, strikes and personalities. He therefore sets out on a different revisionist path, seeking to tackle the problem of what the workers really thought. As this cannot be done by analysing the ideas expressed by a large enough sample of ordinary workers, no such records existing, he has to fill the gap recognized by Stearns by reconstructing the "core beliefs"—the "ideology" of the movement. His emphasis is on ideology, expressing underlying class situations, as an explanation of development, rather than the conjunctural factors of Stearns.

Answering Stearns (though not by name), Moss notes that direct action (strikes, riots and revolts) is usually not about the social values, strategies and objectives that as ideology determine the long-term direction and ultimate

purpose of the labour movement. After that, his argument, too, runs into difficulty. "The underlying ideology of a movement, the core Utopia or social vision, may not correspond exactly with the articulated programme of its organization or the theories of its leaders." If we cannot rediscover the real beliefs of the unrecorded individuals who constitute a movement, can we in some way deduce what is conveniently labelled "a core ideology" which they must have shared?

Missing in previous studies, apparently, was a "concrete analysis of ideology in its historical connexion and context, what Marx called 'the real movement' of the working class." What is meant by this the short preface does not really make clear, but Moss sets out to remedy the omission. His conclusion is that there is a social vision underlying the many changes and variations in French socialism from 1830 to 1914, not just the syndicalist period, in other words, and he calls this "the federalist trade socialism of skilled workers".

In principle, the book could be a contribution to an important debate about the relationship of ideology and the working class: how ideologies are formed and who holds them. In practice, the answer to the first question is swamped in a historical account of what, though further illumination. Unfortunately, neither empirical social science nor Marxist history have succeeded. Perhaps no real success is possible. This is a pity because the subject has a double interest: the French labour movement is fascinating in its own right and raises much wider problems about studying the ideology of social movements.

F. F. Ridley

He does like to be beside the sea

The Englishman's Holiday—A Social History
by J. A. R. Pimlott
Harvester Press, £4.50
ISBN 0 85527 229 5

The role of leisure in modern British history is a sorely neglected topic; one of those areas where the discrepancy between the importance of the phenomenon and its relative absence from historical writing is startling. There are signs that this situation is changing, but it is very noticeable that this book, though coming up for its thirtieth birthday and a classic historical account, is the work of a non-academic historian. Indeed many of the best books on the history of modern leisure have come from the pens of gifted amateur writers. Pimlott's is an important book, long in need of reprinting, though the opportunity has been lost in this version to bring it up to date with a fuller introduction and a more complete bibliography.

At a time when the summer-time rush to the nation's annual resorts, today, something like 40 million people, between holidays in the United Kingdom, three-quarters of whom are for the coast. Indeed the holidaying instinct seems so ingrained that it needs no explanation; in fact it is the result of a particular set of historical circumstances.

The custom of "taking the waters" at spas and inland watering places throughout Europe had long been a powerful feature of British society in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. From the mid-eighteenth century onwards, however, changing medical opinion came to claim for sea-water the medical qualities which it previously assigned to mineral waters. The English switched its seasonal holiday to the coast, where it had drunk and swam in sea-water and enjoyed all those attributes of life familiar at the spa. One of the most striking features of the holiday was the "bathing machine" which was used to transport the holidaying public to the coast. The bathing machine was a small, enclosed vehicle, which was pulled by a horse or a mule. It was used to transport the holidaying public to the coast, where it had drunk and swam in sea-water and enjoyed all those attributes of life familiar at the spa.

Maurice Wiles



One of the many varieties of "entertainment" offered by the seaside; these girls were photographed in 1892.

formed the seaside watering places by bringing them within the reach of those urban workers able to afford the excursion fares. There followed the transformation of the better-off into the playgrounds of the urban masses and it is, in essence, the story of the changing economic and social face of Britain.

James Walvin

towns—their rate of urban growth faster than any other group of towns—during millions to the water's edge in search of fun and good health. By the late nineteenth century, however, medical opinion was emphasizing not the water but the atmosphere, a holiday making patterns remained remarkably stable until the 1950s. Since then, however, much has changed.

James Walvin

Individually, working people might have only a few coppers to spend on leisure; collectively however it added up to enormous economic potential. It was this potential which was realized by those entrepreneurs and financiers who built the piers, theatres and pleasure arcades—and the football stadiums and music halls. The seaside holiday was an element of a complex and wide-ranging popular recreation.

James Walvin

Newtonianism

The Newtonians and the English Revolution 1689-1720
by M. C. Jacob
Harvester Press, £10.50
ISBN 0 85527 066 7

Newton's *Principia* was published in 1687 and was soon recognized as the most important book of science ever written. It not only laid the foundations of classical physics but also, altogether surprisingly, that it should rapidly have been invoked, by those who acknowledged its merits, to support religious and social views. Thus Newtonianism came to have not only a scientific but also an ideological significance, and it is with this that Margaret Jacob is primarily concerned.

Her thesis is that the Newtonian world-view was adopted by the Anglican church after the Revolution to support both its own version of liberal Protestantism and also its version of a social and economic order that would be both Christian and capitalist. The support which Newtonian science received from the pulpit of the moral Lutheranism accounted for its success. Her claim, however, is not that there is some necessary connexion between Newtonian science and particular social and political theories, but that "certain natural philosophies became identified with certain political ideologies for historical reasons." According to her: "the new mechanical philosophy served as the foundation for a social ideology with a dual power: to secure and legitimize church and state against the threats posed by radicals, enthusiasts and atheists and also to reform the established order... to Christianize social relations in the market society that was already in existence." The enemies to be routed were primarily Hobbesians and deists, who represented the socially disruptive end of the political spectrum.

The first chapter, on latitudinarian social theory, amply substantiates the strong connexion between the new men of science and their disciples, and the latitudinarian movement, which saw both a divine plan coming to its fulfilment in the political events of the times and found support for their view in the Newtonian explanations of the natural world, governed by Providence, and the non-material active principles of Newton's speculative theories.

Intellectual consolidation of the Revolution and of the latitudinarian position was given scope by the Boyle Lectures which enabled the new Anglicanism to be advocated within a framework of Newtonian science, and the essential unity of science and theology to be presented. Thus Richard Bentley in his Boyle lectures could see the Newtonian system as vindicating both the view that man has ultimate control, by virtue of his reason, over the things of the world, and the general latitudinarian social philosophy.

This book contains much of interest and provides a plausible explanation for the warmth with which Newton's philosophy was espoused in the post-Revolution period. But there are some questions about the main thesis. First, the evidence for Newtonianism being used to support a particular social, political or religious position is not as strong as it is claimed to be. Second, although Jacob allows that there is only a contingent historical connexion between Newtonian science and the "ideology" it was invoked to support, she sometimes writes as if it were more than that. One suspects, however, that the Boyle lecturers had not had Newton to call upon they might have been almost as happy to invoke Descartes if his science then voked Descartes received orthodox.

Descartes, like Newton, and in contrast to Spinoza, Hobbes and Leibniz, was sufficiently vague on theological and social doctrine. Finally, one must allow room for the possibility that the reason why Newton's views were widely accepted was because they were believed to be true.

G. A. J. Rogers

F. R. Leavis

Engineering and applied science

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